

IN THE ABSTRACT:

--A method and device for changing input states of an electronic device ~~is disclosed,~~ the device comprising an input meansportion and being capable of carrying out user operations, the input states comprising a locked state, where the use of the input meansportion is significantly restricted, and an unlocked state, where the use of the input meansportion is not restricted, the locked and unlocked states being respectively enterable by a locking and unlocking input, ~~and the unlocked state being enterable by an unlocking input, characterised in that the~~ A further input states further comprises state is an intermediate unlocked state in which a limited operational use of the input portion is possible; which method comprises ~~the steps of: entering said~~ the intermediate unlocked state from the locked state, based on user input; detecting termination of a user operation in the intermediate unlocked state, ~~the user operation being other than the locking input;~~ and entering the locked state, in response ~~to detection thereto~~. There is also provided an input controller, a keypad and a mobile electronic device implementing these features.

(Fig. 1 for publication)--